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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, the center of our joy, You are the source of all of our blessings. Thank You for Your unfailing love that provides us each day with the privilege of glorifying Your Name. Lord, help us to remember that You are an ever-present help for all our troubles.

Today, inspire our Senators to trust You to direct their steps. As they are pressed by many issues, help them to slow down long enough to seek Your wisdom. Cheer their hearts with the knowledge that in everything You are working for the good of those who love You, sustaining them by Your grace.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. HATCH).

The bill clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, February 1, 2016.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable BILL CASSIDY, a Senator from the State of Louisiana, to perform the duties of the Chair.

ORRIN G. HATCH,
President pro tempore.

Mr. CASSIDY thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION BILL

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, the senior Senator from Alaska knows that reform is urgently needed to modernize America's energy policies for a new era, with new challenges and new opportunities. Under her leadership, the energy committee has worked hard the past year to achieve that aim. The committee convened listening sessions, the committee held oversight hearings, the committee worked hard and worked across the aisle focusing on areas of common ground that can move our country forward.

That constructive and collaborative process ultimately resulted in a broad bipartisan energy bill, the Energy Policy Modernization Act. It cleared committee with the support of more than 80 percent of the Senators, Republicans and Democrats alike, including the top energy committee Republican, the Senator from Alaska, and the top energy committee Democrat, the Senator from Washington. Both recognize the importance of preparing our country for the energy challenges of today and the energy opportunities of tomorrow.

They are also committed bill managers. I ask colleagues to continue working with them as they have amendments. Talk to the Senators from Alaska and Washington and get your amendments dealt with. This is

bipartisan legislation that provides a commonsense approach to help Americans produce more energy, pay less for energy, save energy, all without raising taxes or adding to the deficit.

So let's keep working and move the process forward. Let's keep working to pass this bipartisan bill.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

ENERGY POLICY MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2015

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 2012, which the clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 2012) to provide for the modernization of the energy policy of the United States, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Murkowski amendment No. 2953, in the nature of a substitute.

Murkowski (for Cassidy/Markey) amendment No. 2954 (to amendment No. 2953), to provide for certain increases in, and limitations on, the drawdown and sales of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

Murkowski amendment No. 2963 (to amendment No. 2953), to modify a provision relating to bulk-power system reliability impact statements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. TILLIS). The Senator from Arizona.

Mr. MCCAIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to address the Senate as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING THE NFL'S NFC CHAMPION CAROLINA PANTHERS AND THE ARIZONA CARDINALS

Mr. MCCAIN. Last week, Senator TILLIS and I agreed to a friendly—or not so friendly—wager on the NFC championship game. The terms of that friendly wager are that the loser would

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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